

Forest Pest Management Section Activities to Monitor and Control Emerald Ash Borer

The Maryland Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Natural Resources has conducted several programs to monitor and suppress EAB as well as release biological control agents.

Monitoring: MDA has been active with placement of both prism and funnel traps to detect EAB in areas where it has not been found. The most common of these were the purple prism traps that were used statewide for many years. As the infestation has spread, early detection trapping has been scaled back. Currently MDA is only trapping on the Eastern Shore to find newly infested counties.

Suppression: EAB larvae can be successfully suppressed by the use of various systemic insecticides. Treatments can be made by direct trunk injection or soil injection. Since it is done on a tree by tree basis, only trees of high value or importance are economically practical to treat. MDA working with DNR did treatments to ash trees located in several State and Municipal Parks in 2016. Additional trees will be treated in the upcoming years. Trees will be monitored and retreated every 2 to 3 years as needed.

Biological Control Agents: The MDA in cooperation with the USFS has been releasing several biological control agents in an attempt to help with long term management of EAB. Parasitoids that attack both the eggs and larvae of the EAB have been released at selected sites in State and Municipal parks. Sites will be monitored to check for the establishment of the parasitoids. Several of the parasitoids have been shown to establish in MD from past releases. The parasitoids do best in forested area that consist of 25% ash or greater so are not recommended for use in urban areas.